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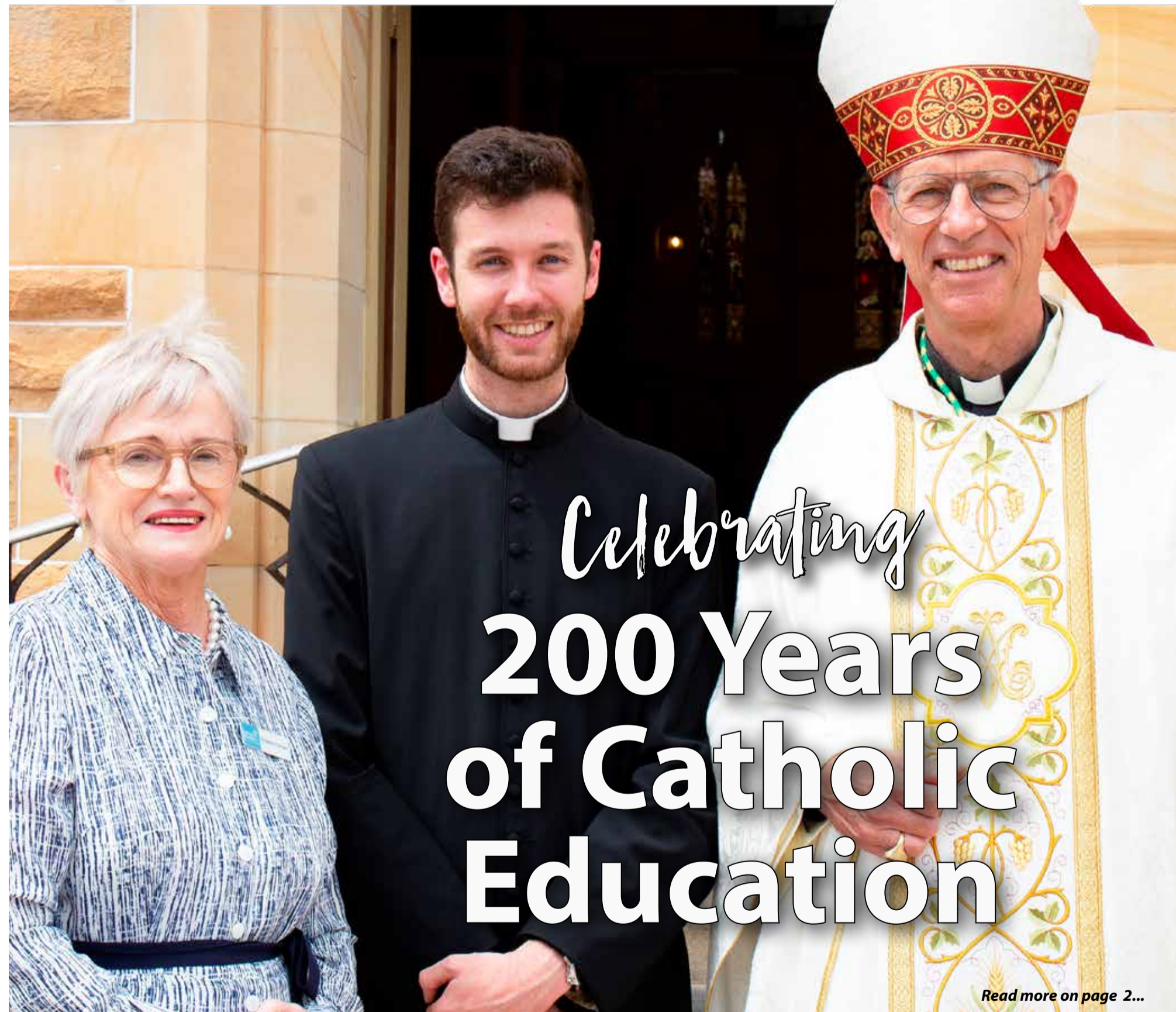
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In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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Celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education

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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Mass of Celebration for 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI - Homily

The gospel today takes up the story immediately after Jesus is baptised in the Jordan. He'd had some kind of encounter with God, and he'd lived a divine life, but something happened in that moment that let him know that this was the time he was to start his public ministry. So, he goes back to Galilee full of the spirit and he starts preaching in the synagogues.

The theme of having an encounter with the living God is something that is woven through our celebration today as we think about 200 years of Catholic Education. There have been four ages of Catholic Education:

The first being when lay men and women taught in small local schools with some funding provided by the government and fees paid by parents.

Then, over time throughout Australia, Government funding was withdrawn from schools. The Bishops met at the first Plenary Council and made the decision that every parish in Australia would have a church, a presbytery a school and a convent. When we look around the parishes today we see that courageous decision has been enacted. And for around 100 years religious provided our education. With no funding, we couldn't afford to pay lay teachers, so religious brothers, sisters, priests - wonderful faith-filled men and women - gave their lives so people could have a Catholic education.

In the 1970's things changed again, there were fewer men and women joining religious congregations and there was a resumption of government funding meaning we could again pay lay teachers.

Now, we have very few religious

teaching in our schools. The fourth age sees us much more organised as "systems" and we are able to utilise the power of our friendships with other schools and our loyalty and belonging together to create a schools system.

Why have we had such a commitment to Catholic Education? Our commitment is centred on the students and the development of their whole person - we want our children to be the very best they can be - academically, physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. It's the "Spiritually" that sets us apart from the government schools. We want our children to have, like Jesus did, an encounter with the living God, and for that to make a difference in their lives like it did in Jesus' life, and as it has in our own lives.

We celebrate days like today with a Mass because we want to associate this celebration and all the work that has led to this point, and all the work to come in the future, with Jesus Christ, with his love for us, with his death, with his resurrection and with the sending of the Holy Spirit which we hear about in today's Gospel.

Development of the whole person is challenging. One particular tension we have is between "being" and "doing". Our society is very good at "doing" - it can provide a sense of fulfilment and fullness. This is important, it gives us relevance, but it is not sufficient. As well as relevance, we also want to have resonance. We want to have a different type of fullness. We want to have an encounter with the Living God that changes our hearts and our lives.

Filled with the spirit, let us leave here today, and go back to Galilee and make a difference.



Elizabeth O'Carrigan (Director Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga) with Dallas McInerney (CEO Catholic Schools NSW) and Jacinta Collins (Executive Director, National Catholic Education Council).



Musicians Vincent Powell, David Enever and Mary Marshall.



*Cover image: Elizabeth O'Carrigan (Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga), Fr Connell Perry and Bishop Mark Edwards.
Photos: Matt Humphrey*

Prayer Intention for November - Pray with Pope Francis

People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



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<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

November 2021 Intention – We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

If you or someone with whom you are close has suffered from depression, you might know how isolating it can be. Depression is a mental illness that touches every part of one's life: family, work, friendships, hobbies. It can feel dark and alone. Sometimes those with depression withdraw so as not to burden others with their darkness. At other times, they are isolated by the stigmas that surround depression. Some friends may tell them, "Just get over it," while others avoid them altogether. Jesus, however, shows us how to meet people in their suffering. He meets the blind man Bartimaeus, the woman at the well, lepers, and paralytics. They have been pushed to the margins of society, and Jesus meets them there. He gets close to them, connects with them and

offers restoration. So, how can we follow Jesus' example as we encounter those suffering from depression and burnout in our world today? How do we extend an opportunity for healing and restoration? We draw close, we connect, and we offer the Light of Christ. He is the Light that gives us hope always.

To those suffering from depression or burnout: there is hope. Depression is a treatable mental illnesses. Do not be afraid to take the risk of reaching out and seeking professional help. Do not be afraid to let others accompany you in your difficult journey. If you know someone who is suffering in this way, reach out; encourage them to see a counselor. And invite Jesus close. Ask for His healing and His Light. Take consolation in His words, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

End of an era as Sr Lois Woodcock LCM retires

Calvary Riverina Hospital: 95 years of being for others

BY LORETTA BRINKMAN

Director of Mission Integration - CALVARY CARE

In 1925 the Catholic Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Joseph Dwyer, invited the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary to establish a hospital in his diocese after receiving care on a number of occasions at their hospital in Lewisham NSW.

Bishop Dwyer hoped that the people of Wagga Wagga and surrounding districts would one day share the benefit of the excellent care that he had experienced. Even before the hospital officially opened the Sisters were making a difference in the community: "In the few months prior to the Opening the Sisters had become known in the town as they visited the sick and the house-bound just as they do at the present time, the only difference being that, in 1926 their only means of transport for their mission were a pair of (often weary) feet."

On the day the hospital opened "All sections of the community showed great interest in the undertaking. The Mayor, Alderman E. E. Collins, in welcoming the Sisters, spoke glowingly of their splendid work. "He believed," he said, "in Wagga's potential greatness and considered the Institution another mark

of progress and an asset to the town". The hospital opened with fourteen beds but often cared for many, many more.

Over the past ninety-five years Calvary Riverina Hospital has built on the legacy of the Sisters and provides world class health care to the people of the Riverina and beyond. In keeping with the original inspiration of Mary Potter and her Sisters, Calvary Riverina Hospital has a particular focus on accompanying those who are at the end of life and is the sole provider of inpatient palliative care in the Riverina.

Today, Sr Lois Woodcock LCM is the last Little Company of Mary Sister working at any Calvary Hospital in Australia. Sr Lois is currently the Pastoral Care Manager, but it will be the end of an era when she retires in December, an era where hospitals were established by religious woman across Australia to ensure that quality, compassionate health care was available to all who needed it. Calvary Riverina Hospital thanks Sr Lois and all the LCM Sisters who have played a part in the founding of this place of healing as we accept the honour of continuing the mission of the Little Company of Mary, of 'being for others.'



Sr Lois Woodcock LCM, Sr Carmel Byrne LCM and Bishop Mark Edwards.

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Synod on Synodality

Pope Francis recently officially launched the Synod on Synodality which will be held in Rome in October 2023.

“The way of synodality is what God expects from the Church of the third millennium.” (Pope Francis)

This involves a process of sharing faith and experiences. All the baptised are invited to have their say. The Pope wants to hear from those who have left the Church, feel hurt in some way, see the church as irrelevant or outdated to participate as well as those who love the Church and are engaged and committed.

The Synod is not to replace the Plenary Council but to complement it.

Bishop Mark Edwards has appointed Trevor Dal Broi of Sacred Heart Griffith Parish to coordinate the diocese’s Synodal response. Trevor says, “My role on this journey is to lead a team that will reach out to diocese, including those that have not been in regular contact with the church for some time and to those voices that are seldom heard. We will be asking how journeying together happens in your Church and what steps you think the Spirit is inviting us to take in order to grow in our journeying together.

Synodality is “a way of being together and working together between young and old, listening and discerning in order to arrive at pastoral decisions that respond to reality.” (Pope Francis) Synodality, when lived in an attitude of listening to the Spirit and discerning the spirits, is truly a path of personal and community conversion. It involves regaining the priority of the church’s “we” to serve the common good.

The Synod was launched in our diocese by Bishop Mark locally on the 17th October and this also marked the commencement of a period of diocesan consultations to help the Synod’s preparation. During this diocesan consultation phase ten areas of synodality are being explored with questions in each area across those themes of communion, participation and mission.

Catholics are invited to pray with, reflect upon and respond and to help develop a process of communal spiritual discernment, much like the dialogue and discernment phases of the Plenary Council. It is an open exercise of prayer, reflection, listening to one another, creating space for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and discerning together. The baptised are

invited to either gather as groups or as an individual to pray, reflect and respond to questions like;

- In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”? Who are those who seem further apart?
- How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?
- How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
- What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society? When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?
- How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community? How do they inspire the most important decisions?
- How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
- What methods and processes do we use in decision-making? How can they be improved?
- How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together”, listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?
- Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptised person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptised from being active in mission?

A new online portal (www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch) has been set up to receive submissions across the various questions the Synod’s preparatory document poses. Not every question needs to be answered, groups and individuals are encouraged to respond to the questions that the Holy Spirit stirs them to answer. Even one question answered well with the power of the Holy Spirit is an important step forward.

The biggest challenge of the Synod is not so much reaching the people in the pews, but the people who aren’t there. This is closely followed by complacency, “Please don’t leave it to someone else, that someone else is you!” said Trevor Dal Broi.



Screenshot from Vatican News YouTube channel.

Trudy Dantis, the director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research and national coordinator for the Synod of Bishops process, said “This Synod is trying to move beyond intermittent moments of synodality towards ‘walking together’ as a norm within the Church.”

“To do this effectively we need all your help”, Trevor Dal Broi said, “Clergy, religious, mums, dads, sisters and brothers we need all of your help to outreach to those within your families and outside your comfort zones. This shared project is a gift and a task for us all and more information on how you can participate in this global call will be available in the coming weeks in all parishes”.

Find out more at:
www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch
 or contact Trevor Dal Broi at
synod-dww@wagga.catholic.org.au

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
 as we gather together in Your name.
 With You alone to guide us,
 make Yourself at home in our hearts;
 Teach us the way we must go
 and how we are to pursue it.
 We are weak and sinful;
 do not let us promote disorder.
 Do not let ignorance lead us down
 the wrong path
 nor partiality influence our actions.
 Let us find in You our unity
 so that we may journey together to
 eternal life
 and not stray from the way of truth
 and what is right.
 All this we ask of You,
 who are at work in every place and
 time,
 in the communion of the Father and
 the Son,
 forever and ever. Amen*



Bishop Mark appoints Diocesan Synod Contact Person

Trevor Dal Broi was recently appointed as our Diocesan Synod Contact Person during the Synod 2021-2023. He introduces himself and speaks of his role.

Hello good people of the diocese of Wagga Wagga.

This month I will be celebrating my 21st wedding anniversary with my beautiful wife Catherine. Over these years we have been blessed to share life's journey with our nine children (and one on the way). Last Sunday, Pope Francis opened the Synod on Synodality, an opportunity for the entire people of God to journey together. The aim of the Synod is to listen, as the entire people of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as the Diocesan Contact Person for this Synod. My role on this journey is to lead a team that will reach out to diocese, especially those

that have not been in regular contact with the church for some time and to those voices that are seldom heard and ask "how journeying together happens in your Church" and "what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together".

To do this effectively we need all of your help. Clergy, religious, mums, dads, sisters and brothers we need all of your help to outreach to those within your families and outside your comfort zones. This shared project is a gift and a task for us all and more information on how we can participate in this global call will be available in the coming weeks.

***Take care & God Bless,
Trevor Dal Broi***



Trevor with his wife Catherine and their children. Photo by Garry Bazzacco Photography.

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Year of Saint Joseph



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St Joseph – A Powerful Intercessor

Parents are the best intercessors. Perhaps your most fervent prayers have been offered for a child in trouble, or perhaps you have encountered one of the many modern-day St Monicas who can be found in your parish. The very powerful reality of parents' prayer can help us understand St Joseph's role as intercessor.

Joseph is invoked as the head of the Holy Family in the Litany of St Joseph; God the Father chose to entrust Jesus and Mary to St Joseph's care and protection.

If we think that the Holy Family didn't really experience hardship and difficulty because of their special status, then we have misunderstood the Gospel. The Holy Family was not immune from daily difficulties and human suffering.

The Holy Family understands what it is like to be driven from their homeland, to experience poverty and hunger. It fell to Joseph to protect, provide and lead. Together, the Holy Family trusted in the promises of God when everything seemed to indicate the very contrary and opposite.

One of the reasons we call them the Holy Family is because they had to exercise the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Their holiness is what makes them relevant and accessible to every family. They relate to us especially in our struggles; their witness gives us hope; their intercession gives us sure support.

But just think of the fervent and constant prayers St Joseph must have offered for Jesus and Mary – prayers for their safety and wellbeing, prayers for Jesus to grow into the man God wanted him to be, to fulfil his mission, to be happy.

Joseph loved Jesus. Joseph

cared for him, provided for him, protected him. Joseph conversed with Jesus, knew his mannerisms, taught him his trade. The special relationship Joseph has with Jesus continues in heaven, which is why those who invoke St Joseph and rely on him have experienced the power of his intercession.

For example, St Teresa of Avila wrote:

I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything which he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favours which God hath given me through this blessed Saint; the dangers from which he hath delivered me, both of body and of soul.

Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious Saint; for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known anyone who was really devout to him, and who honoured him by particular services, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue; for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him.

But I ask, for the love of God, that he who does not believe me will make the trial for himself—when he will see by experience the great good that results from commending oneself to this glorious patriarch, and being devout to him (*Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, chapter 6).

We are all called to be disciples of Christ. Perhaps few of us contemplate becoming a disciple of the child Jesus. One saint who did is Therese of Lisieux. She was struck by how vulnerable God became as a babe at Bethlehem. She realised that Jesus took on the dependency of childhood for

her sake.

Far from being discouraged by her weaknesses, when she contemplated the infant Jesus, she realised that she could depend on God for everything. St Therese's absolute trust and dependence on God characterise her Little Way. This teaching is in great harmony with the Gospel: "Unless you become like little children, you can never enter the Kingdom of God" (Mt 18:3).

We can follow in the footsteps of St Therese. We can imitate Jesus during his earthly life by entrusting ourselves to Joseph and Mary. Many of the saints did it. They have recognised the spiritual parenthood of Mary and Joseph in their lives.

Devotion to Mary and Joseph is, in fact, a sign of a call to greater holiness and intimacy with God. The more childlike we become, the more we can rely on the care and protection of Jesus' parents.

St Joseph continues to exercise his care and concern for the mystical body of Christ interceding for all who entrust themselves to him, as Pope Pius IX highlighted when he declared St Joseph patron of the universal Church.

St Joseph loves you, cares for you and intercedes for you. For our part, may we trust in his intercession and daily make him part of our lives.

Fr Paul Nulley is a priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He has been parish priest of St Joseph's, O'Connor, since 2017 and serves as archdiocesan vocations director and chaplain of Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus.



Caritas Australia supports new report outlining Australia's global role in vaccination roll out

Caritas Australia, as a part of the End COVID For All Campaign, is urging the Federal Government to commit to supporting developing countries in the fight against COVID-19 before the virus mutates and renders current vaccines ineffective.

region and around the world.”

“With a concentrated global push, we can vaccinate nine out of every ten people across the world by the end of 2022 – conceivably avoiding the most serious impacts of further mutations.”



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The new report, A SHOT OF HOPE - Australia's role in vaccinating the world against COVID-19, found that two-thirds of epidemiologists surveyed believe that the virus may mutate in less than a year if action is not taken now to prevent the spread of the virus in developing countries.

“According to the epidemiologists consulted for the report, the best method to prevent COVID-19 further mutating is vaccination, but many low-income countries won't reach 70 per cent vaccination until after 2030, so it is essential we intervene now,” says Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

“We know from our work with partners in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines that misinformation is rampant, and getting enough vaccine doses to remote and regional

communities can be extremely challenging, which has slowed down the vaccination response in both countries. This leaves the virus ample time to mutate and spread, putting already vulnerable communities into an even more vulnerable position.”

“This is why the End COVID For All campaign is urging the Australian Government to immediately commit more funds and more vaccine doses to COVAX, the only global initiative working with governments and manufacturers to ensure vaccines are available to lower-income countries who may not otherwise be able to afford enough doses for their population.”

“We implore the Australian Government to commit to \$250 million to the COVAX facility, as well as 20 million vaccines, as a part of our commitment to the long-term response and recovery to COVID-19 in our



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Fifth World Day Of The Poor 2021

In the leadup to the World Day of the Poor, the Church in Australia is recognising volunteers who work to bring hope to those in need.

The fifth World Day of the Poor, to be observed on Sunday, November 14, will focus on the theme *“The poor you will always have with you”* (Mk 14:7).

**MESSAGE OF
HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FIFTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
14 November 2021**

1. “The poor you will always have with you” (Mk 14:7). Jesus spoke these words at a meal in Bethany, in the home of a certain Simon, known as the leper, a few days before Passover. As the Evangelist recounts, a woman came in with an alabaster flask full of precious ointment and poured it over Jesus’ head. This caused great amazement and gave rise to two different interpretations.

The first was indignation on the part of some of those present, including the disciples, who, considering the value of the ointment – about 300 denarii, equivalent to the annual salary of a labourer – thought it should have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. In Saint John’s Gospel, Judas takes this position: “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” Saint John goes on to note that Judas “said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to take what was put in it” (12:5-6). It was no accident that this harsh criticism came from the mouth of the traitor: it shows those who do not respect the poor betray Jesus’ teaching and cannot be his disciples. Origen has strong words in this regard: “Judas appeared to be concerned about the poor... If in our own day some hold the purse of the Church and, like Judas, speak out for the poor, but then take out what they put in, let them share in the lot of Judas” (Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, 11, 9).

The second interpretation was that of Jesus, and it makes us appreciate the profound meaning of the woman’s act. He says, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me” (Mk 14:6). Jesus knows that his death is approaching, and he sees in her act an anticipation of the anointing of his lifeless body prior to its placement in the tomb. This was beyond anything the others present could imagine. Jesus was reminding them that he is the first of the poor, the poorest of the poor, because he represents all of them. It was also for the sake of the

poor, the lonely, the marginalized and the victims of discrimination, that the Son of God accepted the woman’s gesture. With a woman’s sensitivity, she alone understood what the Lord was thinking. That nameless woman, meant perhaps to represent all those women who down the centuries would be silenced and suffer violence, thus became the first of those women who were significantly present at the supreme moments of Christ’s life: his crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection. Women, so often discriminated against and excluded from positions of responsibility, are seen in the Gospels to play a leading role in the history of revelation. Jesus’ then goes on to associate that woman with the great mission of evangelization: “Amen, I say to you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her” (Mk 14:9).

2. This powerful “empathy” established between Jesus and the woman, and his own interpretation of her anointing as opposed to the scandalized view of Judas and others, can lead to a fruitful reflection on the inseparable link between Jesus, the poor and the proclamation of the Gospel.

The face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor. In everything, Jesus teaches that poverty is not the result of fate, but a concrete sign pointing to his presence among us. We do not find him when and where we want, but see him in the lives of the poor, in their sufferings and needs, in the often inhuman conditions in which they are forced to live. As I never tire of repeating, the poor are true evangelizers, for they were the first to be evangelized and called to share in the Lord’s joy and his kingdom (cf. Mt 5:3).

The poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us, because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father. “They have much to teach us. Besides participating in the *sensus fidei*, they know the suffering Christ through their own sufferings. It is necessary that we all let ourselves be evangelized by them. The new evangelization is an invitation to recognize the salvific power of their lives and to place them at the centre of the Church’s journey. We are called to discover Christ in them, to lend them our



voice in their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to understand them and to welcome the mysterious wisdom that God wants to communicate to us through them. Our commitment does not consist exclusively of activities or programmes of promotion and assistance; what the Holy Spirit mobilizes is not an unruly activism, but above all an attentiveness that considers the other in a certain sense as one with ourselves. This loving attentiveness is the beginning of a true concern for their person which inspires me effectively to seek their good” (Evangeli Gaudium, 198-199).

3. Jesus not only sides with the poor; he also shares their lot. This is a powerful lesson for his disciples in every age. This is the meaning of his observation that “the poor you will always have with you”. The poor will always be with us, yet that should not make us indifferent, but summon us instead to a mutual sharing of life that does not allow proxies. The poor are not people “outside” our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share, in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalization, restore their lost dignity and ensure their necessary social inclusion. On the other hand, as we know, acts of charity presuppose a giver and a receiver, whereas mutual sharing generates fraternity. Almsgiving is occasional; mutual sharing, on the other hand, is enduring. The former risks gratifying those who perform it and can prove demeaning for those who receive it; the latter strengthens solidarity and lays the necessary foundations for achieving justice. In short, believers, when they want to see Jesus in person and touch him with their hands, know where to turn. The poor are a sacrament of Christ; they represent his person and point to him.

Many are the examples of saints who made mutual sharing with the poor their life project. I think, among others, of Father Damien de Veuster, the saintly apostle to the lepers. With great generosity, he answered the call to go to the island of Molokai, which had become a ghetto

accessible only to lepers, to live and die with them. He rolled up his sleeves and did everything he could to improve the lives of those who were poor, ill and outcast. He became both doctor and nurse, heedless of the risks involved, and brought the light of love to that “colony of death”, as the island was then called. He himself contracted leprosy, which became the sign of his total sharing in the lot of the brothers and sisters for whom he had given his life. His testimony is most timely in our own days, marked by the coronavirus pandemic. The grace of God is surely at work in the hearts of all those who, without fanfare, spend themselves for the poorest, sharing with them in concrete ways.

4. We need, then, wholeheartedly to follow the Lord’s invitation to “repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mk 1:15). This conversion consists primarily in opening our hearts to recognizing the many different forms of poverty and manifesting the Kingdom of God through a lifestyle consistent with the faith we profess. Often the poor are viewed as persons apart, as a “category” in need of specific charitable services. Yet following Jesus entails changing this way of thinking and embracing the challenge of mutual sharing and involvement. Christian discipleship entails deciding not to accumulate earthly treasures, which give the illusion of a security that is actually fragile and fleeting. It requires a willingness to be set free from all that holds us back from achieving true happiness and bliss, in order to recognize what is lasting, what cannot be destroyed by anyone or anything (cf. Mt 6:19-20).

Here too, Jesus’ teaching goes against the grain, for it promises what can only be seen and experienced with complete certainty by the eyes of faith. “Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for my name’s sake will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (Mt 19:29). Unless we choose to become poor in passing riches, worldly power and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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vanity, we will never be able to give our lives in love; we will live a fragmented existence, full of good intentions but ineffective for transforming the world. We need, therefore, to open ourselves decisively to the grace of Christ, which can make us witnesses of his boundless charity and restore credibility to our presence in the world.

5. Christ's Gospel summons us to display special concern for the poor and to recognize the varied and excessive forms of moral and social disorder that are generating ever new forms of poverty. There seems to be a growing notion that the poor are not only responsible for their condition, but that they represent an intolerable burden for an economic system focused on the interests of a few privileged groups. A market that ignores ethical principles, or picks and chooses from among them, creates inhumane conditions for people already in precarious situations. We are now seeing the creation of new traps of poverty and exclusion, set by unscrupulous economic and financial actors lacking in a humanitarian sense and in social responsibility.

Last year we experienced yet another scourge that multiplied the numbers of the poor: the pandemic, which continues to affect millions of people and, even when it does not bring suffering and death, is nonetheless a portent of poverty. The poor have increased disproportionately and, tragically, they will continue to do so in the coming months. Some countries are suffering extremely severe consequences from the pandemic, so that the most vulnerable of their people lack basic necessities. The long lines in front of soup kitchens are a tangible sign of this deterioration. There is a clear need to find the most suitable means of combating the virus at the global level without promoting partisan interests. It is especially urgent to offer concrete responses to those who are unemployed, whose numbers include many fathers, mothers, and young people. Social solidarity and the generosity which many, thanks be to God, have shown are, together with far-sighted projects of human promotion, making a most important contribution at this juncture.

6. Nonetheless, one question, which is by no means obvious, remains. How can

we give a tangible response to the millions of the poor who frequently encounter only indifference, if not resentment? What path of justice must be followed so that social inequalities can be overcome and human dignity, so often trampled upon, can be restored? Individualistic lifestyles are complicit in generating poverty, and often saddle the poor with responsibility for their condition. Yet poverty is not the result of fate; it is the result of selfishness. It is critical, therefore, to generate development processes in which the abilities of all are valued, so that complementarity of skills and diversity of roles can lead to a common resource of mutual participation. There are many forms of poverty among the "rich" that might be relieved by the wealth of the "poor", if only they could meet and get to know each other! None are so poor that they cannot give something of themselves in mutual exchange. The poor cannot be only those who receive; they must be put in a position to give, because they know well how to respond with generosity. How many examples of sharing are before our eyes! The poor often teach us about solidarity and sharing. True, they may be people who lack some things, often many things, including the bare necessities, yet they do not lack everything, for they retain the dignity of God's children that nothing and no one can take away from them.

7. For this reason, a different approach to poverty is required. This is a challenge that governments and world institutions need to take up with a farsighted social model capable of countering the new forms of poverty that are now sweeping the world and will decisively affect coming decades. If the poor are marginalized, as if they were to blame for their condition, then the very concept of democracy is jeopardized and every social policy will prove bankrupt. With great humility, we should confess that we are often incompetent when it comes to the poor. We talk about them in the abstract; we stop at statistics and we think we can move people's hearts by filming a documentary. Poverty, on the contrary, should motivate us to creative planning, aimed at increasing the freedom needed to live a life of fulfilment according to the abilities of each person. It is an illusion, which we should reject, to think that freedom comes about and grows through the possession of money. Serving

the poor effectively moves us into action and makes it possible to find the most suitable ways of raising and promoting this part of humanity that all too often is anonymous and voiceless, but which has imprinted on it the face of the Saviour who asks for our help.

8. "The poor you will always have with you" (Mk 14:7). This is a summons never to lose sight of every opportunity to do good. Behind it, we can glimpse the ancient biblical command: "If one of your brothers and sisters... is in need, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand to them in their need. Instead, you shall open your hand to them and freely lend them enough to meet their need... When you give to them, give freely and not with ill will; for the Lord, your God, will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings. For the needy will never be lacking in the land..." (Deut 15:7-8, 10-11). In a similar vein, the Apostle Paul urged the Christians of his communities to come to the aid of the poor of the first community of Jerusalem and to do so "without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). It is not a question of easing our conscience by giving alms, but of opposing the culture of indifference and injustice we have created with regard to the poor.

In this context, we do well to recall the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "Those who are generous should not ask for an account of the poor's conduct, but only improve their condition of poverty and satisfy their need. The poor have only one plea: their poverty and the condition of need in which they find themselves. Do not ask anything else of them; but even if they are the most wicked persons in the world, if they lack the necessary nourishment, let us free them from hunger. ... The merciful are like a harbour for those in need: the harbour welcomes and frees from danger all those who are shipwrecked; whether they are evildoers, good persons, or whatever they may be, the harbour shelters them within its inlet. You, too, therefore, when you see on land a man or a woman who has suffered the shipwreck of poverty, do not judge, do not ask for an account of their conduct, but deliver them from their misfortune" (Discourses on the Poor Man Lazarus, II, 5).

9. It is crucial that we grow in our

awareness of the needs of the poor, which are always changing, as are their living conditions. Today, in fact, in the more economically developed areas of the world, people are less willing than in the past to confront poverty. The state of relative affluence to which we have become accustomed makes it more difficult to accept sacrifices and deprivation. People are ready to do anything rather than to be deprived of the fruits of easy gain. As a result, they fall into forms of resentment, spasmodic nervousness and demands that lead to fear, anxiety and, in some cases, violence. This is no way to build our future; those attitudes are themselves forms of poverty which we cannot disregard. We need to be open to reading the signs of the times that ask us to find new ways of being evangelizers in the contemporary world. Immediate assistance in responding to the needs of the poor must not prevent us from showing foresight in implementing new signs of Christian love and charity as a response to the new forms of poverty experienced by humanity today.

It is my hope that the celebration of the World Day of the Poor, now in its fifth year, will grow in our local Churches and inspire a movement of evangelization that meets the poor personally wherever they may be. We cannot wait for the poor to knock on our door; we need urgently to reach them in their homes, in hospitals and nursing homes, on the streets and in the dark corners where they sometimes hide, in shelters and reception centres. It is important to understand how they feel, what they are experiencing and what their hearts desire. Let us make our own the heartfelt plea of Father Primo Mazzolari: "I beg you not to ask me if there are poor people, who they are and how many of them there are, because I fear that those questions represent a distraction or a pretext for avoiding a clear appeal to our consciences and our hearts... I have never counted the poor, because they cannot be counted: the poor are to be embraced, not counted" ("Adesso" n. 7 - 15 April 1949). The poor are present in our midst.

How evangelical it would be if we could say with all truth: we too are poor, because only in this way will we truly be able to recognize them, to make them part of our lives and an instrument of our salvation.

DRESSED BY
JACKIE

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Plenary Council closing address by The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB

As we come to the conclusion of this First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia I would like to call us back to the words of Pope Francis which shaped the direction of the agenda which has guided our encounters this week.

In a sense the Pope's words might almost be for us a way of discerning both our individual engagement with the assembly this week and our journey together: Pope Francis often reminds us that synodality means walking together we have been walking together this week - and in rejoicing in that, and thanking God for that, we can also ask ourselves how well have we avoided the danger of walking alone, or only in a small group of likeminded people? So let us listen again to Pope Francis:

I dream of a missionary option: that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.

Many times this week we have been reminded that the Church does not exist for its own sake but rather exists to help bring about the Kingdom of God. As I remarked in the homily of the solemn Opening Mass of the Plenary Council, we, the Church, are called to be together "a sign and an instrument of communion with God and of unity among all people". This week we have tried to discern together how we, the Church, can become more fully a clear, unambiguous and effective sign of this communion. We have done this because we are sure that it is as the People of God, the body of Christ in the world, that we can be God's instrument for the establishment of God's kingdom. All week we have been exploring together possible ways of recasting ourselves, re-positioning ourselves, the Church in Australia, for this mission. And this exploration will continue.

We have lived through what has been an inspiring, challenging and sometimes unsettling week for many of us. We have been told of the joy of belonging to the Church and the hope it brings into the lives of many.

But we have, too, touched the pain of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, through their engagement with the Church. As we respond to all of this we are

called, I believe, to heed the words of Saint Paul who tells the Christians in Philippi, and us: *you must have in you the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.*

Through the rich variety of experiences this week, and all the challenges and frustrations we have faced, we have been deeply engaged in the work and the art of group discernment. This has called us to embrace the sometimes quite demanding idea that the voice of God may indeed be heard in the voices of others, even when they jar with us or at times unsettle us. We have learned, through practice, and continue to learn through practice, to listen deeply and carefully, certainly in a respectful way, which can be demanding enough, but also in an open-hearted way, which can be more demanding still.

In all of this we are, perhaps tentatively at times, charting a new way forward - the way of synodality.

As we do move forward in the next nine months, and beyond, we will have to discern carefully in what ways and to what extent we can and must walk together holding in creative tension many different and contrasting voices, and where it might be that God is pointing us in a particular direction and we are all called to follow, together.

Today we draw to a close the first phase of the celebration of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Church in Australia. This week has been a culmination of many years of preparation for this important event in the life of the Lord's Church here in this land. As I mentioned at the beginning of this address we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to everyone who has been and who will continue to be, with us, a part of the journey. We are, indeed, a people who must and do rely on each other in order to build the Kingdom of God.

This period of celebration of the Plenary Council is also a journey which will last for nine months. Although we will all now need to take some well-deserved rest in whatever ways that might be possible for us in the midst of the realities of our daily lives, we do not stand still. The journey continues and will call for our engagement



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB address the Plenary Council
(Photo: Max Hoh/Archdiocese of Perth)

in many different ways.

Certainly, after whatever time we can take for rest and renewal, we will need to remain open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit who will lead us more deeply into all that we have shared together this week. We remain, together, members of this solemn assembly and will remain so until the end of the second and final assembly in July next year. We await indications from the Steering Committee as to how the work of this week will be carried on in the months to come and in what ways we will be invited to continue in our role as members of the Council. The bonds we have forged and the trust we have established will serve us well as these months unfold.

At his Last Supper Jesus promised to send his Holy Spirit to the community of his first disciples and as he died on the cross we are told, in John's Gospel, that he breathed out his Spirit over the infant Church gathered at the foot of the cross in the person of the mother of Jesus and the beloved disciple. In a sense we, too, have found ourselves gathered at the foot of the cross this week because, as again John's Gospel reminds us, Jesus was lifted up so that all the scattered children of God would be gathered into one. We have experienced this gathering, this oneness, throughout this week, sometimes as a powerful reality and sometimes as a dream for which we are longing and which is so often only imperfectly realised. It is a oneness, a communion, that as it grows will enable us to throw everything we are and have into the great task of bringing the light of Christ into the dark and lonely places of our world and of our own lives.

This week we have not been alone, notwithstanding the isolation which has been forced upon many

of us because of Covid. We have been accompanied by the prayers of our brothers and sisters in the community of faith who are looking to us with so much hope. It is these brothers and sisters to whom we will now return. We have carried their hopes and dreams into our plenary assembly. We will continue to walk with them as we share our experience of the Plenary Council with them and as we reflect with them on the ever present and pressing question: what do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

As we conclude our time together this week I want to offer you the same thought I shared with you at the beginning of our assembly: The Lord Jesus is always with us; he remains faithful and true; and he says to us as he said to his first disciples: take courage, I am with you, do not be afraid.

With these words, and in accordance with Article 28 of the Statutes and Regulatory Norms of the Plenary Council I hereby adjourn this First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia and I summon members to resume for the Second General Assembly of the Council in Sydney on the fourth of July 2022.

May God, who has begun the good work in us, bring it to fulfilment.



St Lorenzo Ruiz, an anchor of faith

A number of Filipinos and their Australian friends from around the Albury areas gathered at Sacred Heart Church, North Albury to celebrate the feast of their first Filipino saint, St Lorenzo Ruiz.

Fr Martin Cruickshank celebrated the Mass on 25 September with a group of masked faithful who ardently braved and legally observed the Covid restrictions to honour their beloved patron.

St Lorenzo Ruiz of Manila, a Chinese Filipino, was born on 28 November 1594. He was educated by the Dominican friars and became an altar boy and a scrivener for them at the Binondo Church in Manila. He was falsely accused of killing a Spaniard, and so he sought refuge aboard a ship by joining three Dominican missionaries to Nagasaki, Japan. At that time, there was a persecution of Christians, and Lorenzo and his companions were tormented. He was asked to relinquish his faith to avoid death, but he refused to renounce, and so he was tortured to death. He is known for his deep faith in God, which cost him his life, and with the words he became famous for:

"I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly do accept death for God. Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him I shall offer. Do with me as you please."

He died on 29 September, 1637. His feast is celebrated on 28 September. He

was canonized on 18 October, 1987.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz is the patron saint of overseas Filipino workers and of migrants in general. He is also the patron saint of cooks. He is an inspiration for the young people of today because of his great faith in God, which is an anchorage during these times of challenges like the Covid pandemic, natural disasters and unpredictable climate changes.

What a shining example for all of us to follow!



Fr Martin Cruickshank with parishioners gathered at Sacred Heart Church, North Albury.



A particular concern and plea

A pressing need we hold in prayer at our vigils concerns housing for vulnerable families.

BY JOAN SABOISKY & PEGGY ADAMSON
West Wagga San Isidore Refugee Committee

The high cost of housing and shortage of rental properties impacts many in our community. Refugee families find the competitive rental market especially difficult.

Some families who have been happily settled have been given termination notices. Their rental properties are to be sold. (Good property prices and low interest loans have a big impact on availability).

Even with excellent rental histories, securing a new lease is proving very difficult for these families and are at risk of homelessness.

A PLEA

It has been the experience of our committee that when a particular need is made known the generosity, good will and care for people in the community rises with solutions.

Perhaps some readers with investment properties may like to consider asking their Real Estate managers to give consideration to families of refugee backgrounds. Other readers may know of suitable housing that would be available.

The Multicultural Council provides good support for these families.



Getty Images

If you are able to help in anyway contact Belinda at the Multicultural Council
phone: 02 69216666 email: multicultural@mcww.org.au
web: www.mcww.org.au

MCC's Year 12 Final Mass and Portfolio Presentation

On 8 October Year 12 came together to celebrate the end of their time at Marian Catholic College and receive their student portfolios.

In what is a celebration of their time at the College, normally shared with family and the College community, it was conducted slightly differently.

Due to current restrictions in place, the students were joined by the College Leaders and their homeroom teachers with many family and friends joining the live stream.

The students were joined by Fr Paul to join in Mass for the final time to say thank you for their time together at the College and pray for every success in the HSC exams and their future endeavours. It was a service filled

with happy memories as the students participated in readings and a few members of the music class performed beautiful hymns to accompany this reflective time.

The portfolio presentation followed the Mass with the students coming up on stage to receive their awards one final time. Many students were awarded with academic achievement for outstanding results in their individual subjects and Marian awards acknowledging consistent effort and respect of College values. Principal, Mr Le Brocque addressed the students one last time, as did Year 12 Pastoral Leader Mr Morris.



ARISE!

DIOCESAN WORLD YOUTH DAY
SUNDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2021

"Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen."
(cf. Acts 26:16)

ARISE!

'...it is also true that when a young person rises, it is as if the whole world rises as well. Young people, what great potential you have in your hands! What great strength you have in your hearts!'

Pope Francis, Message for WYD 2021



POPE FRANCIS IS INVITING YOU

"Once again, I invite all of you, young people throughout the world, to take part in this spiritual pilgrimage leading to the celebration of the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon."

- Pope Francis, Message for WYD 2021

Please join us on the 21st of November as our diocese responds to the Pope's invitation to celebrate World Youth Day in our local communities.

WALKING TO FATIMA WITH BISHOP MARK

Bishop Mark wants you to join him in a walk from St Michael's Cathedral to Our Lady of Fatima Church at South Wagga.

Our journey together will conclude with evening prayers and pizza with Bishop Mark at South Wagga.

Be at the Cathedral for a 2pm departure and don't forget to be sun-safe.

Preteens must be accompanied by an adult.

21 NOVEMBER 2021



ARISE & BEAR WITNESS

DIOCESAN WORLD YOUTH DAY
21 NOVEMBER 2021

"Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen."
(cf. Acts 26:16)



The Lord, the Church and the Pope trust you and appoint you to bear witness before all those other young people whom you will encounter on today's "roads to Damascus". Never forget that "anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that Love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus"

- Pope Francis, Message for WYD 2021

Hit the QR code to read the letter Pope Francis has written to you



Today Christ speaks to you...

- Arise! Testify that you too were blind and encountered the light.
- Arise! Testify to the love and respect it is possible to instil in human relationships.
- Arise! Uphold social justice, truth and integrity, human rights.
- Arise! Testify to the new way of looking at things
- Arise! Testify that lives of failure can be rebuilt
- Arise! Testify joyfully that Christ is alive!



"May we be increasingly open to God's surprises, for he wants to light up our path. May we be more and more open to hearing his voice, also through the voices of our brothers and sisters. In this way, we will help one another to arise together and, at this troubled time in our history, we will become the prophets of a new and hope-filled future!"

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for all of us.

- Pope Francis, Message for WYD 2021



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20 years of San Isidore Prayer Vigils for Peace

2021 marks twenty years since the West Wagga – San Isidore Refugee Committee began regular Monthly Prayer Vigils for Peace.

BY JOAN SABOISKY

The prayer vigils continue and are also held weekly during Advent and Lent. All are welcome.

Praying for Refugees was central to the committee's beginnings over forty-five years ago. Prayer enabled us to "welcome the stranger" and often glimpse that we were indeed "entertaining angels"! Prayer made possible the establishment of three cottages at San Isidore where new refugee arrivals were welcomed and housed for twenty years. Prayer has enabled our small committee to continue ticking over. We are perhaps best inspired by the little boy in the Gospel. He had a few loaves and couple of fish and yet, a hungry multitude was fed! Prayer has gifted us the privilege of offering little things, doing little things with faith and trust. In unexpected ways we've witnessed the miracle of needs been met!

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 (OFTEN REFERRED TO AS 9/11)

Significantly the tragic events in New York on September 11, 2001 refocused our committee. The horror of those events didn't diminish our concerns for displaced people; asylum seekers and

refugees, but echoed loudly the need for Peace. Peace is a slippery word. Hard to grasp. What does it mean? We are surrounded by injustices and divisions. We grapple with peace in our hearts, homes, churches, communities. We yearn for peace in our nation and the world. Our simple vigils for Peace anchor us. We listen to the words of Jesus and scripture, "Do not be afraid", "Peace I leave with you, peace the world cannot give."

We are just a few people but we pray big. We reflect on the many faces of Peace: compassion, justice, mercy, forgiveness. We pray in faith and trust. With our presence we bring to our vigils (sometimes spoken, sometimes in the unspoken silence of our hearts) our needs, our concerns, our joys, our prejudices, limitations and distress. We especially bring those requests and needs asked of us and for refugees and asylum seekers.

REFUGEE WEEK PRAYER SERVICES FOR PEACE

The past couple of years Covid 19 has curtailed the Multifaith Prayer services for Peace which our committee



Multifaith Prayer service for Peace Refugee Week 2018 - Aunty Mary Atkinson lights a candle after Welcome to Country

has hosted each year at San Isidore. This service held annually and usually reported in Together concludes the events of Refugee Week held in June. It brings together a wide network of people including valued faith groups, cultural communities and the wonderful Multicultural service providers. We always feel blessed by their presence and support as we gather as one in Prayer.

In 1978 when our committee began welcoming the first refugee families to San Isidore there were no support services: no interpreter services, no English language classes. There were very few organisations that supported

or represented cultural or religious diversity. As a small volunteer group we were often acutely aware of our limitations. Support services, agencies and faith groups have gradually emerged over the years. They engage with the community to promote awareness and understandings of diversity. An answer to prayer! We are indeed blessed to have contact with these groups providing services to refugees, vulnerable people in need and working for Peace and harmony in our community.

**Committee contacts:
Peggy Adamson Joan Saboisky**



Multifaith Prayer service for Peace Refugee Week 2018 - Representatives of various faiths and local communities leading the congregation in a minute of silent prayer for Peace:
L-R Uttamrao Kawadkan (Indian Hindu community), Waseem Afzal (MARWA, Muslim community), Patrick Flynn (Potowa Buddhist community), Aunty Mary Atkinson Wiradjuri Aboriginal spirituality, Colin Wiese (Bahai) Michael Bayles (Quaker), Fr Anto Francis (Syro-Malabar Indian Community)



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Last year Fr Casanova decided to take up the challenge after one of his congregants, whom he had baptised, fell ill with leukaemia.

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Australia with over 600 children being diagnosed every year and sadly, 3 die every week.

The funds raised go to the Children's Medical Research Institute to continue their work into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and finding a cure for childhood cancer.

To donate visit:
<https://greatcyclechallenge.com.au/Riders/FrThomasCasanova>



Below is a list of Praesidia (Legion of Mary groups) for your information. If you would like to join Our Lady's 'SAS'* please contact your Parish.

Name	Location	Meeting Time	Spiritual Director
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Thurgoona	Tues, 9.00am	TBA
Mystical Rose	Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Thurgoona	Mon, 9.30am	TBA
Rosa Mystica	Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington	Tues, 1.00pm	Fr Peter Murphy
Mother of Christ	Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington	Wed, 3.30pm	Fr Brendan Lee
Immaculate Heart of Mary	St Patrick's Parish, Albury	Sun, 4.00pm	Fr Marco Killingsworth
Mary Help of Christians	Mary McKillop College, Jindera	Tues, 3.30pm	Fr Brendan Lee
Queen of Confessors	Mary McKillop College, Jindera	Tues, 3.30pm	Fr Chris Heffernan
Our Lady Help of Christians	St Brendan's, Ganmain	Wed, 2.00pm	Fr Anthony Oboshi
Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit	Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga	Fri, 1.30pm	Sr Miriam Da Luz SPC
Our Lady Star of the Sea (Juniors)	St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga	Wed, 3.45pm	Fr Connell Perry
Our Lady Seat of Wisdom	Vianney Seminary, Wagga Wagga	Thu, 3.40pm	Fr Steven Ledinich
Our Lady Queen of Heaven	St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga	Thu, 5.45pm	Fr Connell Perry
Our Lady Gate of Heaven	St Joseph's, Leeton	Tue, 5.00pm	Fr Anthony Dunne
Our Lady of Cana	St Mel's, Narrandera	Thu, 6.00pm	Fr Bradley Rafter
Our Lady Ark of the Covenant	St Mary's, The Rock	Mon, 7.00pm	Fr Gabriel Murray
Our Lady Queen of Angels	Sacred Heart, Griffith	Thu, 3.30pm	Fr Joma Calma

**LEGION OF MARY
CENTENARY 2021
CELEBRATION**

*You are warmly invited to a Mass
offered by Bishop Mark Edwards
to celebrate the Centenary of the Legion of Mary*

**Wednesday 24th November 2021
6 pm**

**St Michael's Cathedral
Wagga Wagga**

*Please join us for supper afterwards
at the Parish Centre*

Transport available

Contact: Caronne 0413 801 616 or caronnep@hotmail.com

* The British Special Air Service, known as the SAS, is the infantry counterpart to the Special Boat Service. Their insignia bears the phrase "Who dares wins." Asked about the importance of the SAS's role in the fighting that followed the Iraq War, US Gen. Stanley McChrystal said: "Essential. Could not have done it without them."

**Would you like to
receive your copy of
Together via email?**

Simply email us at:
together@wagga.catholic.org.au
and we will add you to the mailing list.

SAINT JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP
encouraging men in their vocation as husbands and fathers

We meet monthly in Wagga Wagga for a meal and drink at a local pub followed by a talk.

Please email:
stjosephscatholicmensgroup@gmail.com
to be included on the mailing list and be advised of events.

Come along to hear high-quality talks and enjoy fellowship.

All men welcome.

Spring brings change at ErinEarth

The popular manager of ErinEarth, Kaz Leary, will finish up her role to take on a new challenge and a new city.

Karen Leary, known to most as Kaz, took on the role following the transition of ErinEarth from the management of the Presentation Sisters to the independent not-for-profit company it is today.

“I’ve watched the community of ErinEarth grow and take on new ownership of the beautiful garden site that we have whilst still honouring our Presentation Sisters Founders’ vision,” Ms Leary said.

ErinEarth is a demonstration sustainable house and native garden located in the heart of Wagga Wagga, hosting popular community events such as Family Fun Days and Sculptures @ ErinEarth. “The work we do here is really important in helping us all live a more environmentally sustainable future” Ms Leary said.

Over her five years at ErinEarth Kaz has been paramount in building a dynamic and passionate team of paid staff to ensure this important Wagga Wagga resource continued to grow and thrive in the community.

Additionally, Kaz is widely respected and much loved by the volunteers whose expertise and enthusiasm are instrumental in managing the site and hosting community events.

“This role has been the most rewarding position I have ever held that has developed me both professionally and personally,” Ms Leary said.

Whilst the farewell celebrations are underway, the task of finding a new manager has commenced.

Whilst she may be moving on from ErinEarth, Kaz’s passion and commitment to the environment will continue in her new role as Project Manager for Landcare ACT. “Although the new role is quite different, I will still be contributing to meaningful environmental and sustainability work which is important to me” Ms Leary said.

The ErinEarth garden is located at 1 Kildare St and is open to the community every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm.



The ErinEarth garden is a place to relax and unwind. Set in the heart of Wagga with on street parking and wheelchair accessibility, our predominantly native garden is a great place to take some quiet time out. Our large urban garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am - 3pm, at 1 Kildare St Turvey Park.



Kaz Leary during Sculptures in the Gardens. Photo: Les Smith

Vatican extends traditional All Souls' Day indulgences

With the COVID-19 pandemic still underway and with restrictions on gatherings still in place in some countries, the Vatican has again extended the period of time when people can earn a plenary indulgence for visiting a cemetery and praying for the souls of the faithful in purgatory.

BY VATICAN NEWS

Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal dealing with matters of conscience, said the indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November can be gained throughout the entire month of November, the Vatican announced Oct. 28.

The cardinal said he was acting in response to "pleas recently received from various sacred pastors of the church because of the state of the continuing pandemic."

Traditionally, the faithful could receive a full indulgence each day from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8 when they visited a cemetery to pray for the departed and fulfilled other conditions, and, in particular, when they went to a church or an oratory to pray Nov. 2, All Souls' Day.

Because of the pandemic and the popularity in many cultures of visiting cemeteries for All Souls' Day, some

local governments and dioceses closed cemeteries in the first week of November to prevent crowding. That led Cardinal Piacenza to issue a decree in 2020 extending the period for the indulgences.

The decree for 2021 renewed those provisions.

Indulgences are granted when a Catholic visits a cemetery to pray for the dead, goes to confession, attends Mass and receives the Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the pope.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment one deserves for one's sins; people often will seek the indulgence on behalf of a loved one who has died or, especially in early November, for an unknown soul in purgatory.

The church teaches that prayer, particularly the Mass, and sacrifices may be offered on behalf of the souls in



A family prays next to a relative's grave in a cemetery during All Souls' Day in Khartoum, Sudan, in this Nov. 11, 2014, file photo. (CNS photo/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah, Reuters)

purgatory. The feast of All Souls differs from the Nov. 1 feast of All Saints precisely because it offers prayers for the eternal peace and heavenly rest of all those who died in a state of grace, but not totally purified.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

Pastoral and Spiritual Practice



Free online session on Tuesday 23 November

Please join us for this free online information session to explore courses and pathways for study at CTC in pastoral and spiritual practice.

Courses are designed for those working in parishes, schools, chaplaincy, hospitals, prisons, social services...

Pastoral Practice

- Pastoral Studies and Outreach
- Leadership for a Safe Church
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
- Studies in Human Ageing

Spiritual Practice

- Spirituality and Wisdom in Practice (*new unit*)
- Teaching Meditation and Prayer
- Inter-religious dialogue
- Art and Spirituality

Presenters:

- Rev. Dr Jacob Mudge, Coordinator - Pastoral Theology
- Dr Christopher Morris, Head of Department, Pastoral and Spiritual Studies
- Dr Rosemary Canavan, Academic Dean
- Rev. Dr Phillip Gleeson SDB, Postgraduate Coordinator

This session will be recorded and available on our website.

CTC Open Days: Bringing to your your study options for 2022: For more see: ctc.edu.au/study/open-days

Visit our website to book online: ctc.edu.au/open-days

If you need further help please contact: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

CRICOS: 01037A

Open Days 2022



Live online sessions

This year we are running Virtual Open Days, so you can join us online to explore our courses from wherever you are.

Whether you are interested in learning more about your faith, have a desire to study and research, wish to pursue a career in ministry or pastoral areas or need to gain qualifications to assist your current teaching or ministry position, you will find something at CTC to meet your needs. We are offering a number of live information sessions as well as a number of video resources to assist you in making the right decision. Please register online for the sessions.

During the sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

Getting Started in Theology

- Thursday 4 November - 10am
- Wednesday 17 November - 7pm
- Monday 22 November - 7pm

Christian Faith and World Religions

- Wednesday 20 October - 7pm

Pastoral and Spiritual Practice

- Tuesday 23 November - 7pm

Mannix Library

- Wednesday 24 November - 10am
- Thursday 25 November - 7pm

CTC 2022 Timetable

Visit our website: ctc.edu.au/study/timetable/

All sessions will be recorded and available on our website.

Visit our website to book online: ctc.edu.au/open-days

If you need further help please contact: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

CRICOS: 01037A

Red Wednesday 2021



On November 24, Red Wednesday is a day to gather to draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs.

Cathedrals, churches and public buildings around the world will light up in red to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Red Wednesday is a day to gather and draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs. Cathedrals, churches and public buildings around the world will light up in red to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Red Wednesday is an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Catholic charity dedicated to the support of suffering and persecuted Christians. In Australia, Red Wednesday will take place on the 25 November however some places will host Red Wednesday events throughout the week.

It is clear that the persecution of Christians is worse today than at any time in history. In terms of the number of people involved, the gravity of the acts committed, and their impact, not only are Christians more persecuted than any other faith group, but ever-increasing numbers are experiencing the worst forms of persecution.

The purpose of Red Wednesday is to join together and raise a strong voice in support of the persecuted who are unable to speak freely, and who look to us - their brothers and sisters in Christ - to speak on their behalf.

This year ACN also released its Religious Freedom in the World report which is produced every two years. The ACN report is the only Catholic, and European-based, global report addressing religious freedom for all the major religious traditions in 196 countries.

The website with more about this report can be accessed at <https://acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport/home/>

The 2021 Religious Freedom in the World report can be viewed at <https://acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Executive-Summary-2021-EN-single-pages-small.pdf>

How can I get involved with Red Wednesday?

Events: A number of churches and cathedrals in Australia will be lighting up in red and holding an event to

commemorate Red Wednesday.

Dress: Wear something red, or a red ribbon, on Wednesday 24 November to raise awareness of those persecuted for their faith. Take a photo of yourself wearing red and share it on social media with the hashtag #RedWednesday

Pray: Prayer is the bond that unites us in love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who suffer and are persecuted for their love of Jesus. Join us in praying throughout November for persecuted Christians. You may also want to offer a Mass for suffering Christians 100% of Mass offerings are sent to poor priests who will celebrate Mass for your prayer intentions.

Awareness: The persecution of Christians is too often ignored. You can change this by knowing the stories of those who suffer and making those stories known. Join our mailing list to receive our regular newsletter (via post or email), follow us on social media and share our content. #RedWednesday.

Donate: By making a donation to Aid to the Church in Need you are helping us to fund projects that support Christians that are being persecuted, oppressed or are suffering. Each year we receive 7500 requests from around the world but we can only help with about 5000 requests due to a lack of funds. If you would prefer to make a donation over the phone you can call: 1800 101 201 during business hours.

Fundraise: From morning teas to marathons to garage sales to movie nights to raffles to bake sales. There is no shortage of creative ways one can raise



support and raise funds for Christians in need. What can you come up with?

Red Boxes: You can request to receive a church shaped 'poor box' to use in your parish or school which can be distributed to encourage spiritual and material offerings across the month of November.

To help ACN in our mission to keep the Faith alive and help persecuted Christians please support us in this Red Wednesday initiative.

Please note: Aid to the Church in Need is running a prayer campaign 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary' to pray for unity and world peace. To join the campaign and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/one-million-children>.

You can also remember persecuted Christians right across the month by being a part of Red November.

To find out more, visit aidtochurch.org/Red-Wednesday



#RedWednesday

Stand up for Faith and Freedom
Pray for those persecuted for their faith.

Project of the Month: November

This month please help Catechists in the Central African Republic. The Central African Republic remains in a permanent state of unrest.



Ever since independence in 1960, the country has witnessed a succession of military coups, political unrest and violent conflicts.

In particular, the most recent coup in 2013, which led to a civil war, has had grave and lasting consequences for the country, right up to the present day. Since then the warring parties have split into an unknown number of armed rebel factions which constantly threaten the security of the greater part of the republic.

Among the areas still affected by the ongoing violence are some parts of the diocese of Bouar, in the west of the country. Many villages have been abandoned and the people have fled. In other places, parents are still afraid to send their children to school. Violent attacks continue to occur. Only in May this year (2021), an Italian missionary had an almost miraculous escape when he drove over a land mine with his car. The car was totally destroyed, and a passenger in the car, a young lay pastoral worker, was killed.

However, around 5 miles (7 km) from the town of Bouar, in the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the situation has improved somewhat. Father Marek Dziedzic, a Polish missionary, is now looking to the future. He wants to train up some new lay catechists for his parish and also help those catechists who were unable to attend a proper catechists' school during the time of the armed conflict, owing to the precarious security situation. His parish has 15 outstations, and the catechists, as everywhere in Africa, play a crucial role in teaching and accompanying the Catholic faithful in the villages – where the priest himself cannot be regularly present.

Father Marek is also asking for our help for the medical needs of his catechists and their families. Here in the Central African Republic, one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world, it is for the most part only the Church which cares for the sick. Malaria in particular is a constant and ever-present threat, and many people still die without treatment. And there are many other widespread infectious

diseases as well. Father Marek is very concerned for the health of his catechists and their families and tries to help them as well as he can. He writes, "Our help has often saved lives and enabled them to live and do their work in peace and in good health." But the medication that is required costs money, and so he is also asking our

help for this purpose.

ACN is very keen to help for the training of his 25 catechists, and for their medical needs and those of their families as **well but we need your help.**

Can you help ACN fund projects like this? Visit: <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>

This Christmas give a gift with Faith at the centre

A **Gift of Faith** is a present given in place of a material gift which supports the work of *Aid to the Church in Need*, the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the spiritual and pastoral support of suffering and persecuted Christians. You can arrange **Gifts of Faith** for family, friends, co-workers and parishioners.

To arrange your **Gifts of Faith**, visit www.thatcatholicshop.com/GiftsOfFaith to view the full range. Select your gifts and we will send you matching cards and envelopes. Complete the cards with your personal greeting and place them under the Christmas tree for your loved ones!

Will you help us keep the faith alive by giving a Gift of Faith?

Provide Transport for Pastoral Care

Project Example: The Diocese of Coari in the Amazon region, Brazil.

The parishes of Coari are located in the middle of the forest. The only means of transport are boats. As the region is poor the Diocese asked ACN for help to buy new boats. The Bishop of Coari, Mgr. Marian Marek, wrote to ACN explaining: "The only means of transport for all our Parishes and communities are boats. All 8 boats in the Coari diocese are wooden, old, slow, dangerous to navigate and require constant renovations. Aluminium boats would be much more useful, faster and cheaper for maintenance. All of this would serve to improve the quality of our pastoral action!"

Will you offer a Gift of Faith providing transport for priests and religious around the world?

Meet Fr Piotr and watch his story:

\$40

Help a Seminarian complete his studies

Project Example: Formation of Seminarians, Ukraine.

In his early years Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, experienced persecution himself. He is pleased that nowadays his seminarians can freely follow their vocation to faith and priesthood.

After the fall of communism, seminaries were rebuilt throughout the country. The Three Holy Hierarchs Major Seminary was founded in Kyiv on June 3, 2010. It is the only seminary in Eastern Ukraine, where Greek Catholics form a small minority.

Today the seminary trains 69 future priests. Fr. Petro Zhuk as its rector is responsible for their human, spiritual and intellectual formation. In his letter asking for support, he explains: "The students participate in the life of the Church through their service at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection and assist in many parishes. During summer, the seminarians organise Christian camps for the children of these parishes."

Can you give a Gift of Faith in support of future priests in Ukraine and around the world?

\$80 Will support a seminarian for a month

Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

Help support Religious Sisters

Meet Mother Graciana and the sisters in Peru.

Project Example: Sisters of the Congregation of Word and Victim, Peru.

The congregation of Missionaries of Jesus Word and Victim travel many hours to be with those most neglected. The sisters teach the people that in the light of the faith they can overcome their difficulties and accept their sufferings because they know something better awaits them. They accompany people in their most difficult situations, in their ailments, and they help people to die in peace. In those moments they are not alone.

For the faithful in Peru, the presence of the sisters is crucial. They represent "the face of the Church," the only contact those people can have with Christ's Sacraments.

Could you give a Gift of Faith to help support religious sisters like these in Peru and elsewhere?

\$100 Will support a sister for a month

Arrange a **Gift of Faith** by calling **1800 101 201** or order online www.thatcatholicshop.com/GiftsOfFaith

First-year's trip to The Rock

BY CHRISTOPHER GILLESPIE & GERARD LETCHFORD
Originally published in Vianney Bulletin

As part of their formation, Fr Sean Byrnes (first-year formator) takes the first-year seminarians on various trips around the diocese to familiarise the seminarians with their new surroundings. Earlier this year this was taken to a new level culminating in facing down Wagga's most formidable monument; The Rock. Some said it wasn't possible. Others doubted.

Many didn't even give consideration to the notion. Yet, armed with Gatorade and trail mix muesli bars, these men dragged themselves step by step to the summit. Victorious, they embarked safely on the journey home, thankful to God for the majestic landscapes they beheld and the fraternal bonding brought about by near-death experiences, all making the trip a great day out with the lads.




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- Utes

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Email: together@wagga.catholic.org.au and we will add you to the mailing list.

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

Outreaching to all those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and would like the Church to look into the validity of their marriage.

Enquiries to the Tribunal Office at McAlroy House
PO Box 473 Wagga Wagga 2650
Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au



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NOW TAKING 2022 ENROLMENTS

An independent school offering traditional education and instruction in the Catholic faith, promoting virtue and excellence of character in a personal and nurturing environment

What is Click To Pray?

Click To Pray is the Pope's prayer app which helps us pray for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church.

BY TREVOR DAL BROJ

Click To Pray offers you three brief moments of prayer each day which invite you to meet with Jesus and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Each prayer is an invitation to unite your heart with the heart of Jesus and make yourself available for a mission of compassion towards the world.

One of the Click To Pray morning prayers asks you to pray for a synodal Church, and as we embrace the Consultation Phase of the Synod of Bishops, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace on this journey.

Click To Pray is a digital community of prayer where you can share the intentions of the Holy Father and pray together with others. The community builds bridges between generations, where we all pray as one.

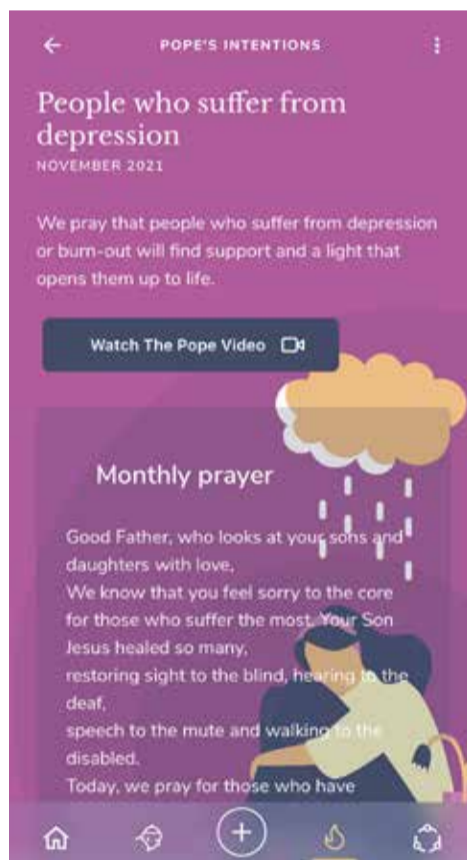
Click To Pray is the app of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (including the Eucharistic Youth Movement). The app connects you with thousands of people who, in all the continents, are praying every day for the challenges of humanity and for the mission of the Church as the Pope proposes in his monthly prayer intentions.

The platform is available in seven languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, Italian, French, German and traditional Chinese. Click To Pray offers content updated on all major social media networks. Find all the proposals to

deepen your prayer in: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. You can also receive daily prayers directly to your email address.

We invite you to download the Click To Pray app as in order to "walk together" and listen to the Holy Spirit, we need to pray. There can be no synodal way without personal and community prayer.

Please visit click to pray at <https://clicktopray.org/what-is-ctp> or download the app on AppStore / Google Play.



The Ode of Remembrance

At 11:00 am on 11 November each year, people from many countries around the world pause to commemorate Remembrance Day, the anniversary of the day that the fighting ended in the First World War.

Towards the conclusion of the ceremonies, after wreaths have been laid and before the sounding of the Last Post and the minute's silence, The Ode of Remembrance is read.

The Ode of Remembrance may be the most well-known part of Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is the fourth stanza of the poem For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon, who before the war had been an assistant keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum. The stanza which forms the Ode of Remembrance reads:

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the
sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

The Ode of Remembrance was selected in 1919 to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and soon passed into common use across the British Commonwealth. In Australia it is recited on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Written just a few weeks after the war began, For the Fallen anticipated much about the war on the Western Front – not least the vast numbers of dead and the symbolism that came to be

associated with the red poppies which grew in profusion in northern France and Flanders.

For soldiers who fought on the Western Front, the Ode of Remembrance also called to mind two of the most important moments of the day in the trenches – dawn and dusk, the time of the 'standto'. This was the favoured time of attack by armies on both sides and all eyes at sunrise and sunset were focused on the enemy line.

Though it was written more than a century ago, in its remembrance of the dead and its sorrowful evocation of the future they were denied, the Ode of Remembrance remains relevant to the present day.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let's We Forget
11.11.2021

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Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga



Thank you to those students who supported the Mission fundraiser, Sock Puppet Fashion Parade.

All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba

Thank you Niamh and Kieran for representing All Saints' at the mass of Celebration for the Bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia at St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga.



St Mary's Primary, Yoogali

Year 6 enjoyed a retreat day for Confirmation. Thank you to Fr Peter for joining them during the day.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

Another fantastic day at Kinder transition was had by all. Dinosaur fun was the theme of the day and the boys had a terrific time searching for dinosaur eggs, making bones and fossils as well as dinosaur sensory exploring!



St Joseph's School, Junee



There was so much excitement at Joey's as we welcomed our Kinder 2022 students for orientation. We can't wait to see you all again soon.



St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn



Mission Day/Socktober Friday. St Joseph's raised almost \$300 for Catholic Mission and their work with schools in Thailand. An amazing effort!



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



At 10.30 am on Wednesday 3 November, Bishop Mark Edwards omi celebrated a special Mass in St Michael's Cathedral for the 200th anniversary of Catholic Education. The Bishop officially launched a commemorative book, "Our Story - Sowing the Seeds from Generation to Generation", which tells the story of Catholic schooling in this diocese. Each school received complimentary copies. The Mass was live-streamed for those who will not be able to attend due to COVID restrictions.

Photo - Bishop Mark Edwards omi, Principal Mrs Val Thomas and our 2022 College Captains Amber Hallam and Oscar Mitter with Principal Mr Chris Brown and 2022 College Captains from Kildare Catholic College.

St Patrick's School, Albury



St Patrick's Parish School celebrating 'Crazy Sock Day' for Catholic Mission. Thank you for your generous donations over the past month. It really does make a difference in the lives of children around the world.



All schools enrolling now

KIDS CORNER

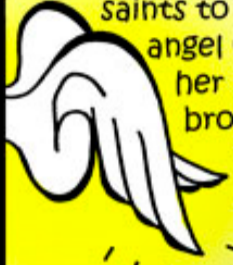
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

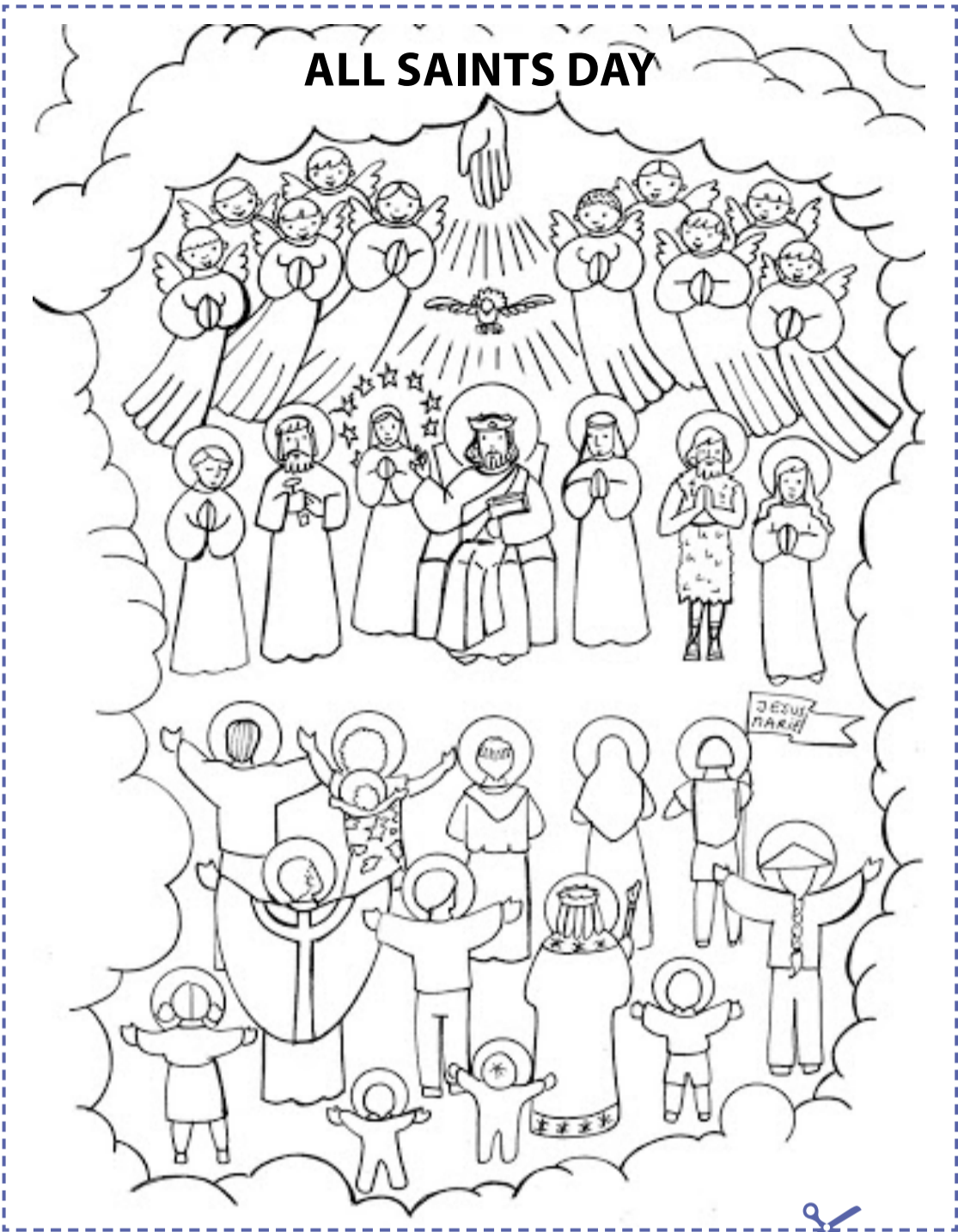
A Roman virgin who beseeched the angels and saints to protect her virginity. She believed an angel watched over her and once baptised, her husband believed also. With his brother, they buried the martyrs slain by Turcius Almachius.

Her preaching had converted 400 people. She was arrested and sentenced to death.

She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.



Saint Cecilia



ALL SAINTS DAY

Recipe...



For those of you preparing a bit early for Christmas why not sweeten up the festive season with biscuits that are sure to make Santa and his team smile. **These make a great gift idea** - simply wrap in cellophane and add a ribbon to make a wonderful gift for your teacher, friends or pastor.

Christmas Biscuits



Ingredients:

- 125g butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (115g) caster sugar
- 1/4 cup (60ml) milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups (225g) self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup (70g) custard powder
- Icing sugar
- Cachous to decorate

Method:

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper.
- Use an electric beater to beat the butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Beat in milk and vanilla extract. Fold in the flour and custard powder.
- Press the dough into a ball and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to rest.
- Divide the dough into manageable portions. Roll out one portion on a sheet of non-stick baking paper to about 1cm thick. Use Christmas cookie cutters to cut shapes and place on the trays. Decorate as pictured.
- Bake for 10 minutes or until light golden. Cool for 5 minutes on the trays before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

Send your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas with your name, age and school to:

Together Editor
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!

NOVEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

Find all of the words or phrases in the puzzle that are in **BOLD** in the word bank below:



- All Saints**
All Souls
St. Martin de **Porres**
St. Charles **Borromeo**
St. **Leo** the Great
St. **Martin** of Tours
St. Frances Xavier **Cabrini**
St. **Margaret** of Scotland
St. **Elizabeth** of Hungary
Presentation of **Mary**
St. **Andrew**
St. **Albert** the Great
St. Andrew **Dung-Lac**
St. **Cecilia**
St. **Clement** I of Rome
St. **Columban**
Christ the King

Jokes...

Some of the students from All Saint's Primary in Tumbarumba got very creative with the jokes for this issue. Thank you for the laughs!!!

Lois - 5 years old



Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?
A: Because it wasn't peeling well.

Agnes - 6 years old



Q: Why did the pirate say grrrr?
A: Because he was grumpy.

Rose - 6.5 years old



Q: Why did the cow pack it's bag?
A: Because he was moooving!

Evangeline - 6 years old



Q: What did the big flower say to the little flower?
A: Hi bud.

Audrey - 6 years old



Q: What animal should you not play with?
A: A cheetah.

Vivienne - 7 years old



Q: What is a pirates favourite letter?
A: RRR!

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Celebrating 80 Years

1941- 2021

St Francis Xavier's School together with St Fiacre's Parish
would like to invite you to celebrate
SFXU's 80th and Final Year

Saturday 11th December 2021

Please join us at St Francis Xavier's School between 1.30pm - 4.00pm
to take a tour of the school, enjoy a light afternoon tea and view memorabilia
This will be followed by Mass in St Fiacre's Church at 4.00 pm

Our evening celebration will include a Canapè-style meal and entertainment
at the Urana Aquatic Function Centre from 6.30 pm until late
**To ensure Covid safe practices, tickets must be purchased prior for BOTH events
and will not be available 'at the door'**

Day Celebrations Tickets - free

Evening Celebrations Tickets - \$50.00

Children 12 & under \$25.00

All proceeds will go to St Fiacre's Parish

To purchase tickets, click on the link or scan the QR code
Ticket Sales will close on 22nd November 2021

<https://compasstix.com/e/aa1utd3kqp>



Help make Together the best newspaper it can be

Let us know what is happening in your area.

Together relies upon your stories to make it relevant and meaningful. We want to know what is happening in your local area so that we can share that news with the rest of the diocese.

We are always looking for local contributors who can write 250 to 350 words about local church projects, initiatives or school events. Include a couple of high resolution photos and you are well on your way to being published in Together.

For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at: together@wagga.catholic.org.au



Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

St Michael's Cathedral
Church Street, Wagga Wagga
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 12:15pm
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm
Confessions
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rosary times
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)
St Mary's Chapel
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit
Sunday - 8:00am and 10:30am
Mt Erin Chapel
Kildare Catholic College
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga
Sunday - 10:00am (Extraordinary Form)

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorungal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:00am and 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:45pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am
Saturday - 9:30am
Reconciliation
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am
Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick's Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday - 10:00am
Thursday - 11:00am (Ethel Forrest Centre)
Friday - 5:30pm
Anointing Mass
Marian Foyer, Henschke Hall
4th Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)
Aged Care Facility Masses
Forrest Centre
Every Thursday - 11:00am
Nan Roberts Nursing Home
- The Haven
3rd Tuesday of the month - 11:00am
RSL Remembrance Village
2nd Tuesday of the month - 11:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

Holy Trinity Church
Bardia Street
Ashmont
Monday - Saturday - 7:00am
Friday - 10:15am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue
San Isidore
Monday to Saturday - 6:00pm

Albury

St Patrick's 515 Smollett St, Albury
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday - 9:30am
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am, and 5:30pm
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon
Weekday Mass Times
Monday to Friday - 7:00am
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel
First Friday - 5:30pm
Rosary before Mass
Saturday - 9.10am and 4.30pm
Sunday - 7.40am and 9.40am

Albury - North Albury

Sacred Heart Mate Street, North Albury
Saturday Vigil - 6.00 pm
Sunday - 9.30 am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am or as printed in weekly newsletter
First Tuesday of month - Mercy Place 11.00am - Includes sacrament of anointing
Confessions
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

Albury - Lavington

Holy Spirit
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am
St Mary's Jindera - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am
Saturday - 9.15am
Confessions
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm
St Mary's Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

Albury - Thurgoona

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8.00am
Tuesday - 10.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)
Friday - 10.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-5.55pm
Sunday - 9.00am-9:25am & 5.00pm-5.25pm
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Berrigan

St Columba's 4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Savernake
1st Sunday - 5:00pm
Weekday Masses are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

St Michael's
Sunday - 7.30am and 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am
Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions
1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

St Mary's Star of the Sea
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website
Confessions/ Reconciliation
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm
St Pius X, Coreen,
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

Culcairn

St Patrick's Culcairn
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)
Henty
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
1st Sunday - 10:00am
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Walla Walla
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)
Weekday Masses
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Before each weekend Mass

Darlington Point

Oliver Plunkett
Hay Rd, Darlington Point
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8.30am - Darlington Point
St Peter's Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Weekday Masses
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point
Confessions
15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

Finley

St Mary's 1 Denison Street Finley
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Saturday - 10.30 - 11.00am

Ganmain

St. Brendan's Ganmain
Sunday Mass
9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.
St. Patrick's Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions 30 min before Mass

Griffith

Sacred Heart Warrambool St, Griffith
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Marian Catholic College Chapel
185 Wakaden Street Griffith
Sunday - 9.00am

Holbrook

Our Lady of Sorrows
125 Albury Street
Holbrook
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am
Weekday Masses
Phone parish for details
Confessions
Before Mass on weekends
St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers
Hume Highway
Bowna
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

Howlong

St Brigid's
Hovell St, Howlong
Church of the Good Shepherd
Queen Street, Walbundrie
Weekend Mass Times
Howlong
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Walbundrie
Sunday - 9:00am
Masses
Howlong
Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong
For other Masses during the week, see the parish website.
Reconciliation
Howlong
Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass) 5:30pm - 5:55pm
Walbundrie
Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

Jerilderie

St Joseph's
Coreen Street, Jerilderie
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

Junee

St Joseph's
21 Kitchener Street, Junee
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday - 7:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 7:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am;
6:00-6:15pm or by appointment
Illabo and Junee Reefs
Alternate Sundays - 8:00am

Khancoban

Church of St Joseph the Worker
Sunday - 9.00 am
Weekday Masses
9.00 am
Confessions
Prior to Sunday Mass

Leeton

St Joseph's Leeton
Wade Avenue, Leeton
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)
St Patrick's Yanco
Sunday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses in Leeton
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa)
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm

Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm
Eucharistic Adoration
St Joseph's Church Leeton
Friday - 4:30pm

Lockhart

St Mary's Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am & Friday - 10:00am
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.

Mulwala

St Brigid's Havelock Street, Mulwala
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil
Weekday Masses
Refer to parish notices
St Joseph's
Barooga
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses Refer to parish notices
Confessions Before weekend Masses

Narrandera

Narrandera St Mel's Church, Audley St
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Friday - 4:30-5:20pm;
Saturday - 9.30-10:00am and 5:00-5:45 pm
Grong Grong
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.00am
Galore
St Kevin's Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta

St Francis Xavier Sydney St, Tarcutta
Sunday - 8:30am
Ladysmith
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Confessions
Before all Masses

The Rock

St Mary's
102 Urana Street The Rock
Weekend Masses
Sunday - 8:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 7:00am
Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 7:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Thursday - 7:00am
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.

Tocumwal

St Peter's
Charlotte Street, Tocumwal
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 9.30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Tumbarumba

All Saints'
40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba
Saturday 9.15am
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma
4th Sunday - 7.30am
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am


Urana

St Fiacre's Church 5 End St, Urana
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 12:30pm
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Oaklands
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10:00am

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii
17 Edon Street, Yoogali
Sunday - 9:30am
St Anthony's - Hanwood
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
St Therese's - Yenda
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda
Saturday - 9:30am - Yoogali (first Saturday of the month only)
Confessions
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass
Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm
Or by arrangement with the priest.

Please note that Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to the date.



Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in November:

1 November 1914	Fr John J Gaffey
2 November 1960	Fr Cyril Joseph Cochrane
9 November 1977	Fr Ronald Corbett
10 November 1998	Fr Leo Francis Wright
13 November 1891	Fr Andrew Walsh
19 November 1965	Fr John Joseph Byrne
19 November 2002	Fr Dennis Allen
23 November 1957	Fr Francis Hubert Gallagher
26 November 1910	Fr Joseph Dowling
26 November 1923	Fr John Gallagher
27 November 1997	Fr Frederick Harry Myhill-Taylor
30 November 1990	Fr Nicholas Simonazzi OFM Cap.

These faithful servants, Lord, put their wholehearted trust in you - Grant that they may live in your love.

Monthly laugh:



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Family reflections for:

Nov/Dec

14th November

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Many things in our lives and in our world are subject to change. Yet all of us find security in relationships and values that endure. Foremost among these are our family relationships. We can confidently accept change if we know that we will continue to be loved by our family and by God. We help impart this sense of trust and confidence in our children with our daily assurances to them that nothing can change our love for them.

As you gather as a family, look through several family photo albums. Observe and talk about things that have changed in your family life over the years. Talk also about the things that have stayed the same. We do not need to fear changes in our family life because we know that the most important aspects of our family life do not change, such as our love for one another. The same is true with God and God's love for us. Read today's Gospel, Mark 13:24-32. Jesus teaches us that things in our world will change and that the world itself will one day end. We don't need to be fearful because God's love for us will never end. Conclude in prayer together thanking God his never-ending love for us. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

*Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16:5,8,9-10,11
Hebrews 10:11-14,18 Mark 13:24-32*

21st November

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Cycle B

Understanding today's feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While most of us do not have direct experience with kings or royalty, we have a sense of who they are. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdoms. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. To understand how Christ is our king, we extend and magnify what we know to be true of the best of human royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the cross in which he offered salvation to everyone. Those who can see with eyes of faith recognize Jesus to be our heavenly king.

As you gather as a family, recall that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church year and on this Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Talk together about what it means to be a king or queen. How do those who are subjects behave toward royalty? Invite children to role-play what one does in the presence of royalty. Read today's Gospel, John 18:33b-37. Ask your family to discuss these questions: Does Pilate treat Jesus like royalty? (No.) What does Jesus say about his kingdom? (It is not of this world.) Talk about how your family shows honor and obedience to Christ our King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

*Daniel 7:13-14 Psalm 93:1,1-2,5
Revelation 1:5-8 John 18:33b-37*

28th November

First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not to disturb his disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider

as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25.

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:4-5,8-9,10,14
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

5th December

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

In today's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to the disciples saying, "Listen to him." The Transfiguration was a focused moment for the disciples when they heard God speaking to them and experienced Jesus in glory. They most certainly left this focused moment with a new appreciation for the importance of Jesus' words even if they did not yet understand everything that he had taught them. During Lent, we are invited to consider our attentiveness to Jesus and to one another. In the pace and noise that often characterizes family life, how well do we listen to one another? What opportunities do we have for quiet prayer?

As you gather as a family, count the number of pieces of equipment in your home that produce sound: televisions, radios, CD players, computers, video games, etc. Observe if sometimes more than one piece of equipment is playing simultaneously and how this might affect communication. Discuss the question: What is it like to try to talk with one another when this equipment is on?

Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 9:28-36. Consider whether the noise and pace of your family life allows family members opportunities for quiet prayer. During Lent, it may be appropriate for your family to choose a time for quiet in the household by turning off televisions, radios, and CD players. Consider whether your family would like to establish such a time during this Season of Lent and suggest that it might allow you the opportunity to listen more attentively to one another and to find time for quiet prayer. Spend a few such moments as a family, asking God to help you listen well to one another and to Jesus.

*Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Psalm 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14
Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36*

Who is Centacare?

At **Centacare** we are passionate about supporting all people in our community. We belong to the **Wagga Wagga Albury, Griffith, Mulwala and surrounding communities** We believe in the wellbeing for all.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

Our Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) team can help you to feel better connected and supported in your community

PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM (POP)

Our Parenting Orders Program (POP) is child-focused and helps parents to manage disputes and increase cooperation and communication for separated families

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We can offer your workplace our Employment Assistance Program (EAP) which offers short term counselling support and debriefing for staff.

For tailored business packages contact our office

LET US ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN

Your NDIS coordinator will work with you to provide supports and link you to other providers, build your capacity to self-manage, and give encouragement.

Your NDIS core support worker can assist you to engage with your community, build your self-reliance and support with your daily living skills

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

Speak confidentially with one of our counsellors who can help you improve your wellbeing and discover your potential

FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We offer a wide range of parenting and education groups that focus on building skills, strategies and knowledge so you can enjoy positive relationships. These programs can be run individually or in a group

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work within Pre-schools, Primary and High Schools with students, families and staff to help guide student academic, behavioral and social – emotional growth.

Call if you would like to discuss this further

COUNSELLING

We offer individual, couples, or family counselling to help support you to strengthen and improve your relationships.

Individual working one on one in a safe and confidential environment

Couples helps two people resolve conflict and improve relationship satisfaction

Families learn new ways of relating to each other, resolve conflicts, and open lines of communication between all family members

MEDIATION

We offer mediation services to assist in resolving disputes related to separation and divorce, children and parenting plans.

Call and find out how our mediator can assist you

And more...